

## **Michael Dixon McKee and William Michael McKee...Anomalies**

by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 2015

Every once in awhile I run across these family history research anomalies and by checking my fellow researcher's family trees I can see many of you are struggling with these two families.

I am speaking of the Michael Dixon McKee and wife; Eliza E. (**McKEAN**) and William Michael McKee and wife; Catherine (**McKEAN**) families.

Both of these men were born almost the same years; both were married within a year, both lived in the same area of Jefferson County, Missouri. And it looks like they could have been brothers and married sisters.

However, make no mistake, they are two distinct individuals with two separate households and lived two separate lives.

I am not doing you a favor by helping to clarify this convoluted records mess because...if you decide to fix your family tree you are in for a long hard effort.

### **LET'S COMPARE BOTH MEN...**

#### **William Michael McKee**

The first place we can identify William is in the 1849 marriage record where he marries Catherine (**McKEAN**) on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 1849 in Jefferson County, Missouri. This is followed by the 1850 census of District 42, Jefferson County, Missouri where he is listed as Michael McKee.

#### **Michael Dixon McKee**

We also find Michael Dixon getting married on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 1850 to Eliza E. (**McKEAN**) also in Jefferson County, Missouri. At first glance you could say he married twice but this is what got you into this mess in the first place. He is followed by the 1850 census of District 42, Jefferson County, Missouri where he is listed as Michael D. McKee followed by his wife Eliza E. probably her sister Nancy J. (**McKEAN**) and Martha A. (**McKEAN**) age 5.

### **LET'S TALK ABOUT THEIR WIVES...**

Catherine (**McKEAN**) was born on 1 January 1831 and is living with her parents who happen to also be Eliza E. (**McKEAN**)'s parents; *i.e.*, James Bell and Elizabeth (**STRUTHERS**) McKean of the 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860 and 1870 census of the Big River Township of Jefferson County, Missouri.

Elizabeth "Eliza" E. (**McKEAN**) was born circa 1832 hence making Catherine the older sister and the most likely to get married first...which she did.

In the 1840 census James is showing 3 daughters born between 1826-1839 this would include another daughter named Nancy. In the 1850 census even though several of the girls are married, James and his new wife; Sarah (**BAKER**) have listed ALL the children including Catherine age 18 and Elizabeth age 20. I believe they got the ages backwards.

## **Michael Dixon McKee and William Michael McKee...Anomalies**

by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 2015

Concerning their mother Elizabeth (**STRUTHERS**) McKean, she may have died after the birth of Stephen in 1835.

According to a deed record posted on ancestry.com there is a statement alluding to her death before 1834, however, I question this since there is a female aged 30-39 in the 1840 census and James didn't marry Sarah (**BAKER**) in 1848.

On Catherine's death certificate the informant stated her parents were James S. McKean and Elizabeth Stuthers. This helped show me the way for my research and the rest is documented on ancestry.

Concerning Michael Dixon McKee and William Michael McKee I believe they were brothers and married sisters. Several on ancestry.com believe Michael Dixon McKee is the son of William Seth and Mary Freeman (**McKAY**) McKee. Without investigating this family I can neither deny nor verify this conclusion.

### **1860 CENSUS COMPARISONS...**

In the 1850 census neither family had any children at that point. However, the 1860 census puts it all together.

Michael Dixon McKee is listed as M. D. age 34 with wife; Eliza E. age 28 with the following children, William E. age 7, Franklin age 5; Mary A. age 4, George age 3. They are living near Hillsboro Post Office, Central Township, Jefferson County, Missouri.

William Michael McKee is listed as Wm McKee age 31 with wife; Catherine age 29; with the following children, Martha E. age 7; James age 4; Harriet E. age 2. They are living near Grubville Post Office, Big River Township, Jefferson County, Missouri.

What we can draw for this census are the following facts.

- [1] M.D. stands for Michael Dixon.
- [2] M.D. is married to Eliza E. born 1832.
- [3] M.D. lived near Hillsboro.
- [4] M.D. had 4 children.
- [5] William was also named Michael as his marriage records and 1850 census validates.
- [6] William is married to Catherine born 1831.
- [7] William had 3 children.
- [8] William lived near Grubville.
- [9] Michael is living in Central Township; William is living in Big River Township

# **Michael Dixon McKee and William Michael McKee...Anomalies**

by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 2015

## **1870 CENSUS COMPARISONS...**

If I continue to do the comparisons all it will do is make you mad, however, for those of you who need further convincing, I will continue to offer further proof. Some of you are going to think I must be a smart aleck however, after 40 years of Family History Research and with close to 50,000 names in my Pratt Progenitor Papers tree, I have hone my skills to zero in on problems when it comes to anomalies in family history research.

Michael Dixon McKee is listed as M. D. age 43 with wife; Eliza age 37 with the following children, William E. age 17; D. T. age 15; Mary age 14; Geo. W. age 13; Green age 7; Samuel age 6 months. They are living near Hillsboro Post Office, Central Township, Jefferson County, Missouri.

William Michael McKee is listed as Michael McKee age 41; Catherine age 39; Martha age 16; James age 14; Harriet age 12; Mary age 9; Susan age 5; Oscar and Austin age 1 month; Stephen age 2. They are living near Hillsboro Post Office, Big River Township, Jefferson County, Missouri.

What we can draw for this census are the following facts.

- [1] M.D. stands for Michael Dixon.
- [2] M.D. is married to Eliza born 1833.
- [3] M.D. lived near Hillsboro.
- [4] M.D. had 6 children.
- [5] William was also named Michael as his marriage records and 1850 census validates.
- [6] William is married to Catherine born 1831.
- [7] William had 8 children.
- [8] William lived near Hillsboro.
- [9] Michael Dixon is living in Central Township; William is living in Big River Township

## **1880 CENSUS COMPARISONS...**

Michael Dixon McKee is listed as M.D. aged 52; Eliza E. age 48; with the following children, Dock F. age 24; George W. age 23; Seth G. age 16; Cora E. Power listed as a daughter age 7. They are living in Valle Township, Jefferson County, Missouri.

William Michael McKee is listed as Michl McKee age 51; Catherine age 49; Martha age 26; James age 24; Harriet age 22; Melinda age 18; Susan age 15; Stephen age 12; Austin age 10; Oscar age 8. They are living in Big River Township, Jefferson County, Missouri.

What we can draw for this census are the following facts.

- [1] M.D. stands for Michael Dixon.
- [2] M.D. is married to Eliza born 1832.
- [3] M.D. lived in Valle Township, Jefferson County.
- [4] M.D. had 4 children.
- [5] William was also named Michael as his marriage records and 1850 census validates.
- [6] William is married to Catherine born 1831.
- [7] William had 8 children.

## **Michael Dixon McKee and William Michael McKee...Anomalies**

by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 2015

[8] William lived Big River Township.

[9] Michael Dixon is living in Valle Township; William is living in Big River Township

If you continue tracking both of these families, you will discover nowhere in any documents is Catherine listed as Eliza, Elizabeth or what we can conclude to be a middle name. When she died her informant put an E. initial on her death certificate but I hold no credence to its validity.

It appears Michael Dixon McKee died on 8 June 1889 and is buried in the Harverstick Cemetery, Jefferson County, Missouri.

The last place I can place his wife; Eliza E. (**McKEAN**) McKee is when she filed for a Civil War Pension Application on 6 January 1890. If these people are of interest in your research, you should order that application.

In pursuit of Eliza's death date, I checked each of her children in the 1900 census to see if she was living with them and could not locate her.

Therefore, it appears she died 1890-1900 in Big River Township, Jefferson County, Missouri, United States.

Don't get over jealous and think the Eliza J, McKeen whom died 9 January 1896 in Saint Louis is our girl, remember Eliza E. (**McKEAN**) McKee died a **McKEE** not a McKeen. Posting unvalidated web information is the kind of tricks that got your tree in such a mess.

Concerning William Michael McKee, he died on 24 January 1894 in Benton Township, Crawford County, Missouri, United States [which is a guess since that was where his wife was living] and is buried in the Lick Creek Cemetery, Cuba, Benton Township, Crawford County, Missouri, United States.

William Michael McKee, his wife and some of their children are buried in the same cemetery.

When I see misinformation being copied from one tree to another, I can understand why so many people who visit ancestry.com get angry and confused. It appears 20 to 30 trees have the wrong information about these people and I consider it my responsibility to help clarify these falsities and at least give help to those who really would like to know the truth.

In fact, the McKee and McKean families are not even remotely connected to my tree. However, I was researching Martha Elizabeth (**McKEE**) born 15 August 1853 in Hillsboro, Big River Township, Jefferson County, Missouri, United States daughter of William Michael and Catherine (**McKEAN**) McKee when I noticed the confusion on ancestry.com.

Martha is part of my "**Isaac L. Harmon sr. and Descendants Volume 13 of the Pratt Progenitor Papers Series**", which is going to be posted for free at the following location...

<https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists>

## **Michael Dixon McKee and William Michael McKee...Anomalies**

by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 2015

All are welcome to browse and if you don't see a family of yours yet then email me and I'll let you know when it is scheduled for posting.

Read the article, "**Wrap it Up**" in the "View From the Mast" heading and it will share with you my reasons for posting 40 year of family history research.

*Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*  
*11 February 2015*

### **BOY, THIS IS YOUR LUCKY DAY!!!**

The book or article you have requested has been posted online for free. You can access these books by Mr. Pratt at the following... <https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists>

Read the attached article "**Wrap it Up**" for an explanation of each of these list categories. You can find what you have requested in the \_\_\_\_\_ group. Click on the title of the group and you will see all the books or articles listed under that category.

Click on the title of the book or article you desire for a full explanation of the item with contents. On the upper right hand column, are the words "Read Online" and PDF. All of these publications have been up loaded to the Internet Archive Digital Library repository and you can access them directly at the following... <https://archive.org/>

If you wish to read online click the read online link, if you wish to download this item click the PDF link. I suggest you download, giving you the opportunity to read and study the book, article or stories at your leisure.

My reasons for posting these items free online are explained in detail in the article "**Wrap it Up**". Glad to be of help, if you have further inquiries or need assistance please email Mr. Pratt at [floydpratt59@gmail.com](mailto:floydpratt59@gmail.com). Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.